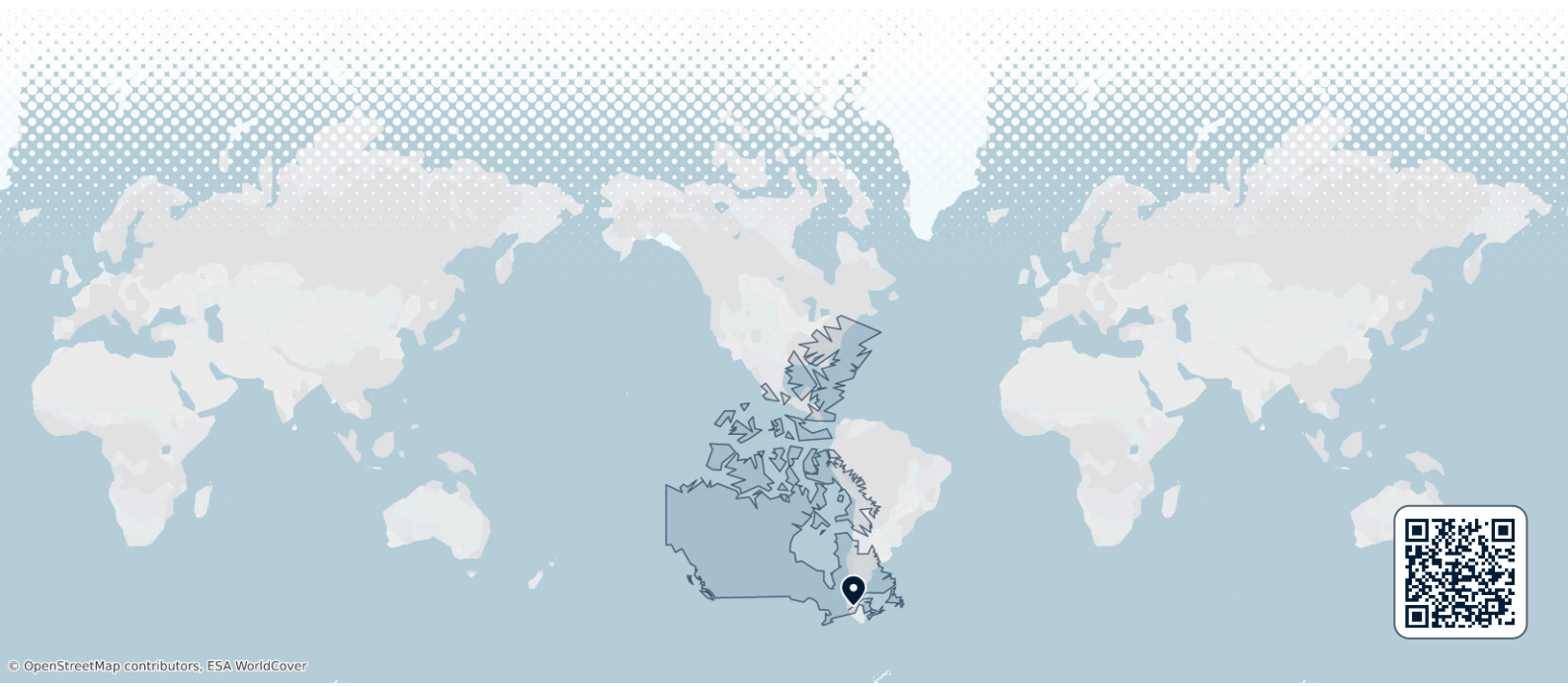


Quebec City

Quebec · Canada

TRAVEL GUIDE

Tripomatic



© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover

Overview

Quebec City is the capital of the province of Quebec. It sits on a cliff above the St. Lawrence River. Old Quebec is the only walled city north of Mexico and a World Heritage Site. French is the main language, and the city feels more European than most of North America.

It suits a trip of two to three days. Visitors come to walk the old streets, see the fortifications and the river views, and enjoy French-Canadian food. Winter brings snow, a famous carnival.

When to visit

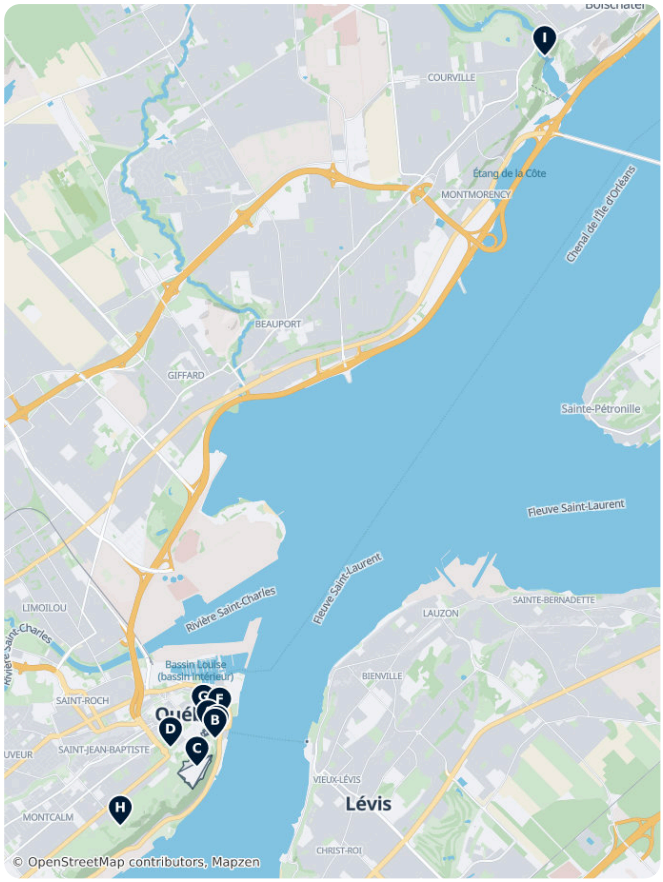
Summer is warm and busy, with long days and outdoor terraces. Late September and early October have mild days and autumn colour, but October can already be cold. Winters are long, snowy and very cold. They are also when the city is most festive.

Plan around the Quebec Winter Carnival in February. It lasts about ten days, with parades, snow sculptures and outdoor events. Dress very warmly.

MONTH	CONDITIONS	DAY °C avg / max	NIGHT °C avg / min	
January	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-7° / 2° Feels like -13°	-17° / -30°	13 rainy days · Dry air
February	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-6° / 2° Feels like -11°	-16° / -28°	Dry air
March	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-1° / 6° Feels like -6°	-10° / -22°	12 rainy days · Dry air
April	Poor Poor for sightseeing	8° / 17° Feels like 4°	-1° / -10°	13 rainy days · Dry air
May	Good Good for cycling	17° / 25°	6° / 0°	15 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
June	Good Good for sightseeing	22° / 28°	12° / 6°	17 rainy days · Calm winds
July	Good Good for sightseeing	24° / 28°	15° / 11°	19 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
August	Good Good for sightseeing	23° / 28°	14° / 10°	16 rainy days · Humid air · Calm winds
September	Good Good for sightseeing	20° / 26°	10° / 4°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
October	Fair Fair for cycling	12° / 20° Feels like 9°	4° / -2°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
November	Poor Poor for sightseeing	4° / 12° Feels like -1°	-3° / -12°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds
December	Poor Poor for sightseeing	-4° / 3° Feels like -9°	-12° / -23°	14 rainy days · Dry air · Calm winds

Climate data: NASA POWER (MERRA-2) · 1996–2025

Top sights



- A Château Frontenac is the grand hotel that towers over the old town. It is the city's best-known landmark, and you can see it from many parts of the river and the lower town.
- B Terrasse Dufferin is a long wooden boardwalk beside the hotel. It has wide views over the St. Lawrence River.
- C The Citadel of Quebec is a star-shaped fort on the cliff top. It is still an active military site, and you can visit with a guided tour.
- D Ramparts of Quebec City are the old city walls and gates. You can walk along large parts of them.
- E Quartier Petit Champlain is a narrow, pedestrian lower-town street of small shops and cafés. Reach it by stairs or by the funicular.
- F Place Royale is the small square where the city began in 1608. Stone houses and a small church surround it.
- G Basilique cathédrale Notre-Dame-de-Québec is the main Catholic church of the old town. The interior is richly decorated.
- H Parc des Champs-de-Bataille is a large park on the cliff top. It is the site of the 1759 battle between British and French forces. It is also good for a walk or a picnic.
- I Montmorency Falls is a tall waterfall a short drive east of the centre. A cable car and a path give close views.

Quebec City – Plan Your Trip

Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.

3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning

App Store · Google Play

Scan to download the app

What to experience

- **Cross on the Lévis ferry at sunset.** The short crossing gives a view of the old town and the hotel on the cliff.
- **Join the Winter Carnival.** Parades, ice sculptures and outdoor events fill the city in February.
- **Ride the funicular.** The short ride links the upper town with the lower town streets.
- **Visit a Christmas market in December.** The old town has a Christmas market and lights.
- **See Montmorency Falls in winter.** The spray freezes into a large ice cone at the base of the falls.

Day trips

All trips are one way from downtown, in order from closest to farthest.

- Montmorency Falls: about 15 minutes by car or bus. A tall waterfall with a cable car and viewing stairs.
- **Île d'Orléans**: about 20 to 30 minutes by car. A rural island of farms, orchards, cider and small villages. A road circles the island, about 67 km.
- **Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré**: about 30 to 40 minutes by car. A famous basilica and pilgrimage site.
- **Charlevoix**: about 1 to 1.5 hours by car to Baie-Saint-Paul. A coastal region of villages, art galleries and river views.
- Ⓐ Montreal: about 3 to 3.5 hours by train, bus or car. It is better as a separate stop than as a day trip.



Where to explore

- Montreal is Quebec's largest city and the usual next stop. It is about 3 hours away by train or car.

Getting there

- **By air**: Quebec City Jean Lesage International Airport (YQB) is about 20 km west of downtown. Most routes are short flights from Canadian hubs, mainly Montreal and Toronto. Taxis take about 25 minutes. Montreal airport is also a common choice, with a 3 to 3.5 hour onward trip.
- **By train**: VIA Rail runs from Montreal in about 3 to 3.5 hours. Trains arrive at Gare du Palais, at the edge of the old town. Book on VIA Rail.
- **By bus**: Long-distance coaches from Montreal take about 3 to 3.5 hours. They arrive at the Gare du Palais intermodal terminal.

Getting around

- **Public transit**: RTC runs the city buses. Pay with the RTC Nomade phone app, or with an OPUS card from ticket machines and sales points. See RTC.
- **Funicular and stairs**: The funicular links the upper town and Petit Champlain. Stairs also connect the two levels, and some are steep.
- **Ferry**: A ferry crosses the river to Lévis in about 15 minutes. It gives a good view of the skyline.
- **On foot and by bike**: Old Quebec is compact and walkable, but it has steep hills and cobblestones. Cycle paths follow the river outside the old town.

Getting around on foot & by bike

WALKABILITY

Moderate

Old Quebec is compact and walkable, but it has steep hills, stairs and cobblestones.

CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE

Moderate

Cycle paths follow the river, but the old town is hilly.

Driving

- **Is a car worth it?** Not for the old town. Streets are narrow and steep, and parking is limited. A car helps for Montmorency Falls, Île d'Orléans and trips along the river.
- **Parking**: Use paid car parks at the edge of Old Quebec and walk in. Street parking is limited and has time rules.
- **Winter**: Snow is heavy. Streets are cleared quickly, but ask your rental company about winter tires, which are required by law in Quebec from December to March.

Food & drink

Quebec City food is French-Canadian. Look for **poutine**, a dish of fries, cheese curds and gravy. Also try tourtière (meat pie), pea soup, maple syrup treats and local cheese and cider. Many restaurants serve French-style bistro food.

Eat around Quartier Petit Champlain and the streets of the old town. For a more local choice, try Rue Saint-Jean outside the walls, or Saint-Roch, the neighbourhood below the cliff. Tipping of 15 to 20 percent is normal in sit-down restaurants.

What to eat & drink

DINNER

Tourtière
A savory meat pie, traditionally made with pork, beef, or game, especially popular in Quebec.

SNACKS & STREET FOOD

Poutine
Fries topped with cheese curds and hot gravy, originally from Quebec and now popular nationwide.

Bannock
A simple fried or baked bread with roots in Indigenous cooking, found in many regional variations across the country.

Montreal-style Bagel · Bagel montréalais
A smaller, sweeter, denser bagel than the New York style, boiled in honey water and baked in a wood-fired oven.

Maple Syrup · Sirop d'érable
Syrup tapped from maple trees, mainly in Quebec and Ontario, used on pancakes and in baking and savory dishes alike.

SWEETS & DESSERTS

Butter Tart
A small pastry shell filled with a sweet, gooey butter, sugar, and egg filling, sometimes with raisins or pecans.

Nanaimo Bar
A no-bake dessert bar from British Columbia with a chocolate-crumb base, custard filling, and chocolate topping.

DRINKS

Caesar
Canada's signature cocktail: vodka, Clamato juice (tomato and clam broth), and spices, served with a celery stalk.

Canadian Whisky
A lighter, smoother style of whisky than Scotch or Bourbon, often blended with rye.

Ice Wine
A sweet dessert wine made from grapes frozen on the vine, produced mainly in Ontario's Niagara region and British Columbia's Okanagan Valley.

Quebec City – Plan Your Trip
Turn the places from this guide into a real itinerary, with smart routing, time estimates, and everything you need for a perfect trip.
3M+ downloads · 4.6 stars · 15 years of trip planning
App Store · Google Play
Scan to download the app

Safety & health

Quebec City is very safe for visitors. Normal city care is enough. Keep valuables out of sight in parked cars. Late at night, some bar areas can be rowdy.

Winter needs preparation. Wear warm layers, a hat, gloves and boots with good grip. Ice on steep streets and stairs is slippery. Tap water is safe to drink.

History

Indigenous peoples lived here long before the French came. *Samuel de Champlain* founded the French settlement in 1608 at what is now Place Royale. The city became the capital of New France.

In 1759 British forces won the Battle of the Plains of Abraham, on the land of Parc des Champs-de-Bataille. Britain then took control of the colony. The walls and The Citadel of Quebec were built and strengthened during the British period. Their style is still visible today.

Country facts

Quick practical facts for Canada at a glance:

CURRENCY
CAD $

EMERGENCY
911

ELECTRICITY

Type A / Type B
120 V · 60 Hz

LANGUAGES
English, French

TAP WATER
Safe to drink

Quebec City Essentials

Quebec City's historical core features the Promenade des Gouverneurs, offering views of the St. Lawrence River, and the 19th-century Martello Tower 1 within the Plains of Abraham's Battlefield Park. Cultural highlights include the Musée de la Civilisation and the Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec. Notable landmarks include the Second Empire-style Parliament Building, North America's oldest grocery store, J.A. Moisan, and the 31st-floor Capital Observatory. The Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste and the Museum of Chocolate Érico provide further insight into the city's religious heritage and local culinary craftsmanship.





A Promenade of Governors

A promenade along the coast of the sea that is popular thanks to amazing scenery views. Great place for evening walks.

(Unnamed Road), Québec G1K, Canada
(46.80701, -71.20568)



B Musée de la Civilisation de Québec

The Musée de la civilisation, often directly translated in English-language media outside Quebec as the Museum of Civilization, is a museum...

Rue Dalhousie 85, Québec (46.81517, -71.20230)

mcq.org, +1-418-643-2158



C Observatoire de la Capitale

Located on the 31st floor of the Marie-Guyart Building, this observation deck provides 360-degree views of Quebec City, the St. Lawrence River, and the surrounding mountains from a height of 221 meters.

Rue de la Chevrotière 1037, G1R 3J4 Québec
(46.80804, -71.21780)

Mo–Su	10:00–17:40

observatoire-capitale.com



D Jean-Alfred Moisan Grocery

This small and cool grocery is the oldest one in North America opened around 1871.

699 Rue Saint-Jean, G1R 1P7, Québec City, QC, Canada
(46.81040, -71.21885)

Mo–We	08:30–19:00
Th–Fr	08:30–21:00
Sa	08:30–19:00
Su	10:00–19:00

jamoisan.com/index.php, +1 418 522 0685



E Musee national des beaux-arts du Quebec

The Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec, abbreviated as MNBAQ, is an art museum in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada.

Grande Allée Ouest 179, G1R 2H1 Québec
(46.79959, -71.22466)

mnbaq.org, +1-418-643-2150



F Battlefield Park

The Battlefields Park includes the Plains of Abraham with the nearby and smaller Des Braves park, both within the district of Montcalm in...

25 Av Garneau, Québec G1R, Canada (46.80079, -71.22019)



G Hôtel du Parlement

The Parliament Building of Quebec is an eight-floor structure and is home to the National Assembly of Quebec, in Quebec City, Quebec,...

Rue des Parlementaires 1045, Québec (46.80854, -71.21434)

Mo–Su 09:30–16:30

assnat.qc.ca/en/visiteurs/index.html, +141 8643 7239



H Capital Observatory

The 31st floor of Marie-Guyart Building serves as a observatory, it gives you an amazing view of whole Quebec that you will never forget.

1037 Rue de la Chevrotière, G1R 5E9, Québec City, QC, Canada (46.81064, -71.21658)

+1 418 644 9841



I Martello Tower 1

Martello towers, sometimes known simply as Martellos, are small defensive forts that were built across the British Empire during the 19th...

390 Av Laurier, Québec G1R, Canada (46.80167, -71.21702)

pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/qc/fortifications/natcul/natcul1/d.aspx



J Musée Naval de Québec

Those who are interested in naval history may be interested in this museum. It shows how the maritime affected people during the time.

170 Rue Dalhousie, G1K 8M7,Québec City, QC, Canada (46.81847, -71.20092)

museenavaldequebec.ca, +141 8694 5387



K Museum of Chocolate Érico

A chocolaterie and museum dedicated to chocolate and sweets. You will see how they are made here.

634 Rue Saint-Jean, G1R 1P8, Québec City, QC, Canada (46.81034, -71.21958)

chocomusee.com, +141 8524 2122



L Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste

Saint-Jean-Baptiste Church was a church in Quebec City, Quebec located at 410 Rue Saint-Jean.

480 Saint-Jean Rue, Québec City, QC, Canada (46.80947, -71.22204)

jeandominique.org/contact, +1 418 688 0350

Historic Monuments and Memorials

Quebec City's landscape is defined by its military heritage and commemorative landmarks. This collection features 19th-century defensive structures like Martello Tower 1 and the Gothic Revival Quebec City Armoury. It includes monuments honoring pivotal figures such as General Wolfe and Captain Bernier, alongside the Regency-style Maison Henry-Stuart. These sites, concentrated around the Plains of Abraham and the historic center, provide physical links to the city's colonial conflicts and political evolution.





A Martello Tower 1

Martello towers, sometimes known simply as Martellos, are small defensive forts that were built across the British Empire during the 19th...

390 Av Laurier, Québec G1R, Canada (46.80167, -71.21702)

pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/qc/fortifications/natcul/natcul1/d.aspx



B Quebec City Armoury

The Voltigeurs de Québec Armoury, formerly Grande-Allée Armoury, was built as a Gothic Revival drill hall for the infantry regiment Les...

1255 Place George-V O, Québec G1R, Canada (46.80672, -71.21476)

C Earl Grey Terrace

Scenic viewpoint overlooking the Plains of Abraham, named for the Governor General who established the National Battlefields Park in 1908.

(46.79593, -71.22739)



D François de Laval de Montmorency

Monument dedicated to the first Roman Catholic bishop of Quebec, situated near the Basilica-Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Québec.

38 Pass du Chien-d'Or, Québec G1K, Canada
(46.81352, -71.20496)

E Maison Henry-Stuart

A National Historic Site comprising an 1849 Regency-style cottage and an English garden, reflecting the lifestyle of the 19th-century elite.

Grande Allée Ouest 82, G1R 2G6 Québec
(46.80250, -71.22396)

actionpatrimoine.ca/mhs/accueil.htm

F Monument Des Braves

Stone pillar topped with a bronze statue of Bellona, commemorating those who fell during the 1760 Battle of Sainte-Foy.

(46.80066, -71.24067)

G Wolfe Monument

An 1832 monument marking the location where British General James Wolfe was mortally wounded during the Battle of the Plains of Abraham in 1759.

(46.79995, -71.22493)

H Char d'assaut

A Sherman tank memorial located near the Quebec City Armoury, honoring the contributions of Canadian armored regiments.

(46.80651, -71.20739)

I Capt. Bernier

Memorial to Captain Joseph-Elzéar Bernier, the Canadian navigator who led early 20th-century expeditions to claim the Arctic archipelago for Canada.

(46.81162, -71.18790)



J First World War Memorial Site

Commemorative site featuring the Cross of Sacrifice, dedicated to the memory of soldiers who died during the First World War.

(46.80569, -71.21333)

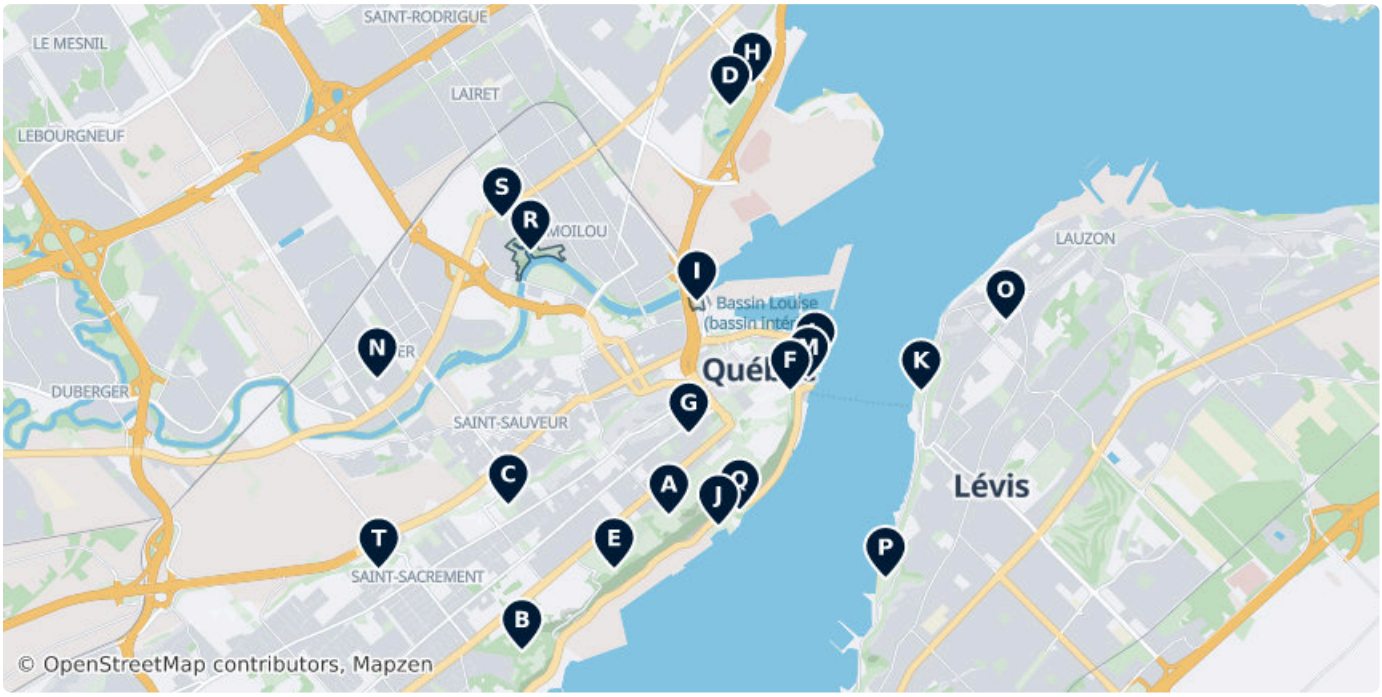
K Monument Etienne Paschal Taché

Monument honoring the Father of Confederation and former Prime Minister who played a key role in the 1864 Quebec Conference.

(46.80042, -71.21199)

Quebec Parks and Viewpoints

Quebec City's green spaces range from the sprawling historic grounds of Battlefields Park, site of the 1759 Battle of the Plains of Abraham, to the manicured gardens of Bois-de-Coulonge Park. The city offers diverse vistas from the 221-meter-high Observatoire de la Capitale and the riverside Quai Paquet, known for its expansive fountain. Modern urban spaces like Place des canotiers and Place de Paris revitalize the Old Port, while inland spots like Domaine de Maizerets provide extensive trail networks and arboretums.





A Battlefield Park

The Battlefields Park includes the Plains of Abraham with the nearby and smaller Des Braves park, both within the district of Montcalm in...

25 Av Garneau, Québec G1R, Canada (46.80079, -71.22019)

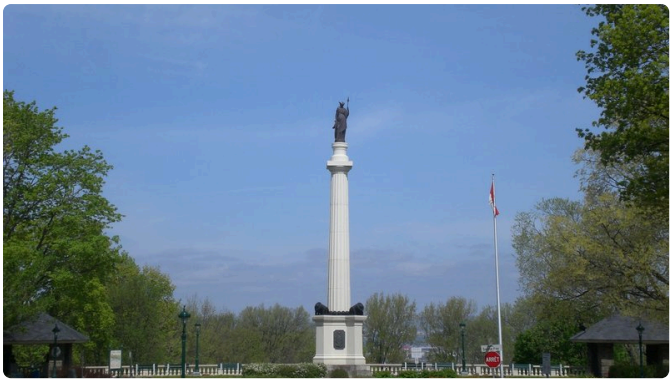


B Bois-de-Coulonge Park

Quebec's Government House, known as Spencer Wood, was the viceregal residence of Quebec. It was built in 1854.

1215 Grande Allée O, Québec, QC G1S 1E7, Canada (46.78860, -71.23948)

capitale.gouv.qc.ca/parcs-et-places-publiques/parcs/parc-...



C Parc des Braves

Site of the 1760 Battle of Sainte-Foy, featuring a commemorative monument topped by a statue of Bellona, the Roman goddess of war.

Québec G1S, Canada (46.80167, -71.24130)



D Domaine de Maizerets Park

Maizerets is a neighbourhood of the la Cité-Limoilou borough of Quebec City, Quebec, Canada that had a population of 14 700 in 2011.

2000 Boulevard Montmorency, G1J 5E7, Québec City, QC, Canada (46.83750, -71.21216)

domainemaizerets.com/ckeditor_assets/attachments/2/p...

E Earl Grey Terrace

Elevated viewpoint on the Plains of Abraham offering panoramic views of the St. Lawrence River and the south shore.

(46.79593, -71.22739)

F Lorne

Scenic lookout point located near the historic fortifications, providing views over the Lower Town and the river.

(46.81192, -71.20426)

G Observatoire de la Capitale

Observation deck on the 31st floor of the Marie-Guyart Building, offering 360-degree views of Quebec City from a height of 221 meters.

(46.80809, -71.21758)

H Tour d'observation

Wooden observation tower in Domaine de Maizerets providing views of the park's wetlands and the St. Lawrence River.

(46.83958, -71.20925)

I Parc de l'Amérique-Latine

Urban park located near the Saint-Charles River, featuring monuments dedicated to prominent Latin American historical figures.

Québec G1K, Canada (46.81993, -71.21652)

J Parc Bassin Brown

Waterfront park along the St. Lawrence River with interpretive panels detailing the city's maritime history and the 19th-century timber trade.

(46.79981, -71.21368)

K Quai Paquet

Riverside public space in Lévis featuring a large fountain with 160 water jets, located adjacent to the ferry terminal.

6075 Rue Saint-Laurent, G6V, Canada (46.81191, -71.18705)

L Place des canotiers

Urban square featuring water jets, gardens, and tiered wooden seating with views of the St. Lawrence River and cruise ship terminal.

40 Rue Dalhousie, Québec G1K, Canada (46.81444, -71.20097)

M Place de Paris

Public square in the Old Port featuring the 'Dialogue avec l'histoire' sculpture, marking the site where French explorers originally landed.

18 Rue Dalhousie, Québec G1K, Canada (46.81309, -71.20186)

N Parc Napoléon-Grondin

Local community park in the Saint-Sauveur neighborhood.

(46.81304, -71.25852)

O Parc de la Bonne-Entente

Residential park located in the Beauport borough.

(46.81826, -71.17594)

P Parc Saint-Laurent

Riverside park offering views of the St. Lawrence River and the Quebec Bridge.

G6V, Canada (46.79511, -71.19174)

Q Parc Notre-Dame de la Garde

Small park in the Cap-Blanc district, adjacent to the historic Notre-Dame-de-la-Garde church.

(46.80120, -71.21091)

R Parc Cartier-Brébeuf

National historic site marking the 1535 wintering site of Jacques Cartier and the 1625 establishment of a Jesuit mission.

Québec G1L, Canada (46.82451, -71.23836)

S Parc Lairet

Urban green space in the Limoilou district following the path of the partially restored Lairet River.

(46.82747, -71.24210)

T Parc Saint-Sacrement

Community park in the Saint-Sacrement area featuring sports facilities and mature tree cover.

(46.79592, -71.25830)

DATA SOURCES

Map data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, ESA WorldCover, Mapzen
Data	© OpenStreetMap contributors, Wikidata, Wikipedia, Tripomatic, Official websites

IMAGE CREDITS

- Promenade of Governors — "La promenade des Gouverneurs est un escalier de Québec qui relie la terrasse..." by Jeangagnon, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Musée de la Civilisation de Québec — "Musée de la civilisation, Québec" by Jeangagnon, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Observatoire de la Capitale — "Vue à partir de l'observatoire de la Capitale. Édifice du Parlement et édifices..." by Stéphanevoyer, CC BY-SA 2.5
- Jean-Alfred Moisan Grocery — "Épicerie J.A. Moisan, 699, rue Saint-Jean, Québec« Fondée en 1871, J.A. Moisan..." by Jeangagnon, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Musee national des beaux-arts du Quebec — "Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec (MNBAQ)" by Gilbert Bochenek, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Battlefield Park — "Battlefields Park in Quebec City. In the background, the Loews-Le Concorde..." by NickHam, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Hôtel du Parlement — "Charles-Michel de Salaberry (1778-1829), statue de la façade de l'hôtel du..." by Jean Gagnon, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Capital Observatory — "Affiche de l'Observatoire de la Capitale à l'entrée de l'édifice Marie-Guyart..." by Malimage, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Martello Tower 1 — "Tour Martello 1" by Stephane BLANC, CC-BY-SA
- Musée Naval de Québec — "Exposition Méandres, le modèle réduit du HMCS St.Laurent baptisé le Selver..." by Musée naval de Québec, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Museum of Chocolate Érico — "Museum of Chocolate Érico" by Jonathan Rosales, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste — "L'Église Saint-Jean-Baptiste, à Québec. Situé dans l'arrondissement La..." by Orbitale, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Martello Tower 1 — "Tour Martello 1" by Stephane BLANC, CC-BY-SA
- Quebec City Armoury — "Headquarters and Barracks of Les Voltigeurs de Québec, Québec City Canada. In..." by Self, Public domain
- François de Laval de Montmorency — "François de Laval de Montmorency" by Siyu Qian, CC-BY-SA
- First World War Memorial Site — "First World War Memorial Site" by Stephane BLANC, CC-BY-SA
- Battlefield Park — "Battlefields Park in Quebec City. In the background, the Loews-Le Concorde..." by NickHam, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Bois-de-Coulonge Park — "Le Parc du Bois de Coulonge est un parc public situé sur la colline de Québec..." by Eric Fortin, CC BY-SA 3.0
- Parc des Braves — "Photo of the monument on the corner of Avenue des Braves and Chemin Sainte-Foy..." by Pjposullivan, CC BY-SA 4.0
- Domaine de Maizerets Park — "Le château du Domaine de Maizerets, un parc urbain de 27 hectares situé au..." by Bouchecl, CC-BY-SA-3.0

A free travel guide — not for sale. Travel guide generated with AI on November 29, 2026. Text and layout by Tripomatic, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0. Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, available under the ODbL. Photos are under their own licences, as credited on this page.